

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A closing plug for receipt by a threaded flange that is assembled into a drum end, said closing plug comprising:
 - a threaded body for receipt by said threaded flange;
 - a radial flange arranged adjacent a first end of said threaded body; and
 - a plurality of spaced-apart, axially-protruding projections extending from an outer portion of said radial flange in the direction of said drum end for limiting the threaded advancement of said plug by abutment of one or more of said plurality of axially-protruding projections against a surface of said drum end.
2. (Original) The closing plug of claim 1 wherein said radial flange has a modified hex shape.
3. (Previously presented) The closing plug of claim 2 wherein said plurality of axially-protruding projections totals six equally-spaced projections.
4. (Original) The closing plug of claim 3 wherein each axially-protruding projection is of unitary construction with said radial flange.
5. (Previously presented) The closing plug of claim 4 having a longitudinal axis and wherein each axially-protruding projection has a substantially flat lower surface that is substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously presented) The closing plug of claim 1 wherein said plurality of axially-protruding projections totals six equally-spaced projections.

Amendment Response after FINAL Action
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8. (Original) The closing plug of claim 1 wherein each axially-protruding projection is of unitary construction with said radial flange.

9. (Previously presented) The closing plug of claim 1 having a longitudinal axis and wherein each axially-protruding projection has a substantially flat lower surface that is substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

10-12. (canceled)

13. (Currently amended) ~~The drum closure of claim 11~~ A drum closure for a drum end comprising:

a threaded flange constructed and arranged for assembly into said drum end;

a closing plug constructed and arranged for receipt by said threaded flange, said closing plug having a threaded body, a radial flange arranged adjacent a first end of said threaded body;

a plurality of spaced-apart, axially-protruding projections extending from an outer portion of said radial flange in the direction of said drum end for limiting the threaded advancement of said plug by abutment of one or more of said plurality of axially-protruding projections against a surface of said drum end; and

a sealing gasket positioned around said threaded body and being constructed and arranged for sealing between said radial flange and said drum end, wherein each of said plurality of axially-protruding projections has an axial length such that contact against said drum end occurs after said closing plug is tightened into said threaded flange to a desired torque for proper sealing gasket compression.

14. (Original) The drum closure of claim 13 wherein said radial flange has a modified hex shape.

15. (Previously presented) The drum closure of claim 14 wherein said plurality of axially-protruding projections totals six equally-spaced projections.

16. (Original) The drum closure of claim 15 wherein each axially-protruding projection is of unitary construction with said radial flange.

17. (Previously presented) The drum closure of claim 16 having a longitudinal axis and wherein each axially-protruding projection has a substantially flat lower surface that is substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

18-28. (Canceled)